Technology Needs Assessment

A contractor has evaluated IDEM's current Information Technology infrastructure and its future needs. Recommendations on hardware and software needs have been presented by the contractor.

Information Management

IDEM has established a full-time position to serve as coordinator for the agency's data system. This position is responsible for establishing the agency's data management system and setting agency data standards. This will allow data to be freely exchanged among program areas and serve a variety of needs through IDEM's many different and specialized offices.

Internet Team

To enhance IDEM's Web site, IDEM has established a team of staff members who are responsible for identifying and prioritizing projects to improve the agency Web site. The team identified ten priority projects and set time lines for developing and posting them. Priority items and the implementation schedules are updated quarterly. The team was responsible for posting of the Quarterly Waste Reports for the Office of Land Quality, updating and increasing access to e-mail notices for the Office of Air Quality's Smog Watch ozone education site and establishing a Pollution Complaint Clearinghouse reporting form.

Each year, IDEM processes thousands of permit requests, produces numerous environmental studies and analyzes volumes of technical data concerning the health of Indiana's environment. IDEM has set in place a new, systematic approach to filing, storing and retrieving data. This new approach is designed to better handle the large volume of information; however, a key component of this effort involves making this information accessible to the general public.

Centralized File Room

IDEM merged the air, water and land program area file rooms into one centralized location in the Indiana Government Center North. This increases and simplifies public access to files, provides savings on personnel and space costs and sets the stage for further efficiencies. A pilot study is being conducted on the possible creation of an electronic filing system.

> **Each month IDEM's Web site receives an average of 158,447 hits. Visitors to the site can find information ranging from rule making and permit updates to environmental education materials for educators and children.**

Environmental Education

IDEM has completed a review of environmental education programs within the agency and hired its first environmental education coordinator. As part of this review, IDEM conducted an environmental education needs assessment survey with more than 300 Indiana educators. The information gained during this review is being used to establish an environmental education strategy for the agency.

www.state.in.us/idem/
studteac.html

Information Outreach

IDEM reaches out to communities across Indiana through various public events and conferences such as the Indiana State Fair, Black Expo, Hoosier Association of Science Teachers Inc. conference, Earth Day Indiana events, Science Alive and interactive environmental education training programs. These efforts include providing hands-on activities, informational display booths, publications, speeches and educational children's games. Activities such as these help to instill environmental stewardship and provide students and adults the information needed to make better environmental decisions on a day-to-day basis.

Indiana Recycling Searchable Database

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance has developed a searchable database containing recycling locations throughout Indiana. The database pulls together all of the organizations in Indiana that collect materials for recycling into one easy-to-use source. The information is available on the Web and allows users to search based on the following options:

Type of Service: Allows you to search based on "drop-off" or "curbside" recycling. Search results provide both private sector services and governmental recycling services.

Select a County: Allows you to search based on a listing of 92 Indiana counties.

Pick a Material: Allows you to search based on a certain recyclable material, such as aluminum cans. You can also select "all materials" for the full selection of recycling opportunities in your area.

www.state.in.us/idem/oppta/
recycling/search